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UNTOLD TALES of SPIDER-MAN®

SEP
#24

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BUSIEK - MCLEOD

Bitten by a radioactive spider, high school student **Peter Parker** gained the spider's powers, and soon became the costumed crimefighter the entire world would one day come to know as **Spider-Man!** In the early days of his career, when his amazing powers were still new to him, the teenaged Spider-Man struggled to learn about himself and his abilities, while trying to lead a **normal life!** It would **not** be easy...

STAN LEE PRESENTS... UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN!

AT FIRST, THEY SEEMED LIKE HARMLESS PRANKS.

THE LITTLE FREAK LET THE AIR OUT OF MY TIRES.

I'LL CRACK HIS SKULL IF I EVER CATCH'IM.

BUT THEY KEPT GROWING MORE FREQUENT, MORE VIOLENT.

H-HE TOSSED A BRICK RIGHT THROUGH MY DINING ROOM WINDOW.

I-IT COULD HAVE KILLED MY CAT!

NO ONE IN FOREST HILLS WAS SAFE! ABSOLUTELY NO ONE!

HE STOLE MY BICYCLE!

JUST RAN UP AND KNOCKED ME OFF... THEN PEDDLED AWAY... RIGHT AROUND THAT CORNER!

YOU SURE IT WAS *SPIDER-MAN?*

WELLLL... HE WAS WEARING A *RED* AND *BLUE COSTUME* WHICH WAS COVERED WITH *WEBS!*

WHO'S *YOUR* GUESS, EINSTEIN?

THE HUMAN TORCH?!

GIANT-MAN?!

MAYBE *THE BLACK WIDOW'S* TRYING A NEW LOOK!

HEY, FLASH! WHAT YOU DOIN'?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD, TINY? THE ILLUSTRIOUS *Mr. THOMPSON* IS TRYING TO TRACK DOWN *SPIDER-MAN...*

THINK YOU'LL EVER SEE THAT BIKE, AGAIN?

WITH ELLERY QUEEN ON THE CASE?

FAT CHANCE!

DEAD END

...AND BRING HIM TO JUSTICE!

YOU GOT IT ALL ***WRONG,*** LIZ!

THE MORE I LOOK INTO THESE CRIMES, THE MORE I'M CONVINCED SPIDEY'S ***INNOCENT!***

AND I'M GONNA PROVE IT!

REMEMBER THAT ***SPIDER-MAN COSTUME*** WHICH WAS LIFTED FROM MY LOCKER A FEW WEEKS BACK?

I THINK SOME ***CREEP*** GOT HOLD OF IT -- OR ONE ***LIKE*** IT -- AND IS ***IMPERSONATING*** THE WEB-HEAD!

THIS ***ISN'T*** A GAME, FLASH! WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS VANDALISM COULD BE ***DANGEROUS!***

IT TAKES REAL ***BRAINS*** TO SOLVE A MYSTERY.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK A GUY LIKE ***PARKER*** FOR HELP!

GET ***REAL,*** TINY! THAT PUNY PENCIL-NECK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT SPIDER-MAN!

IT'S UP TO GUYS LIKE ***US*** -- GUYS WHO'VE ALL BEEN SAVED BY THE WALL-CRAWLER AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

I'M GONNA HELP ***SPIDEY*** LIKE ***HE*** HELPS EVERYBODY ELSE!

BIG WORDS, FLASH! SO ***WHAT'S*** YOUR PLAN?

I... Uh... I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE, YET.

I'M STILL GATHERING NOTES, TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF THERE'S A PATTERN.

"BUT, WHEN I'M READY TO ACT, I'LL JUST PICTURE THE REAL ***WEB-SWINGER,*** AND ASK MYSELF --"

"WHAT WOULD SPIDEY DO?!"

DIE! ONE MUST DIE TODAY... ...ME OR YOU!

GEEEE! THAT'S A REAL TOUGHIE, BATWING! YOU ABSOLUTELY SURE THERE ARE NO OTHER CHOICES? 'CAUSE I'D REALLY LIKE TO GO WITH "NONE OF THE ABOVE!"

MONSTERS, MISTRUST AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS FROM:

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RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT/EM LETTERS	STEVE MATTSSON COLORS	TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
BOB HARRAS EDITOR IN CHIEF	A STAN LEE PRESENTATION	

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SPWAK

MAYBE I'M MISSING SOMETHING, BATWING --

-- BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE, LIKE, *FRIENDS!*

WHY ARE YOU *ATTACKING* ME?

MUST DIE! MUST DIE!

THWIPP

CATCHY *TUNE*, BUT I DOUBT YOU CAN *DANCE* TO IT --

-- ESPECIALLY WITH YOUR EYES WEBBED SHUT!

THIS IS *CRAZY!* I WAS MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS, WEB-SWINGING ACROSS TOWN, WHEN MY *SPIDER-SENSE* SUDDENLY STARTED BUZZING... AND *HE* SHOWED UP!

SHRRIM

BRUUU-THER! I REALLY HATE WHEN HE CUTS LOOSE WITH HIS HIGH-PITCHED SCREECH!

WHERE'D HE COME FROM? WHY IS HE BACK IN *NEW YORK?* I THOUGHT HE WAS STILL WITH *CURT CONNORS*, UNDERGOING TREATMENT IN *FLORIDA*.

Uh-Oh! HE'S STILL FOLLOWING ME. WITH MY LUCK, HE'S PROBABLY USING SOME KIND OF BAT-LIKE SONAR.

NO *PROBLEM!* I JUST HAVE TO KEEP AHEAD OF HIM FOR TWO MORE BLOCKS, AND THEN --

-- I CAN DUCK INTO THIS CONSTRUCTION SITE I SPOTTED EARLIER!

EVERYBODY, DOWN!

WRAP YOUR ARMS AROUND THE NEAREST GIRDER, AND HOLD TIGHT!

W-WHAA--?!

HEY! YOU CAN'T BE UP HERE WITHOUT A HARD HAT!

DON'T TELL ME --

-- TELL HIM!

MY PLAN SEEMS TO BE WORKING! THE NOISE GENERATED BY THE CEMENT MIXERS AND PNEUMATIC DRILLS IS CONFUSING BATWING -- AND MESSING WITH HIS SONAR!

SHRRIII

I'M CALLING THE UNION! WE DESERVE DOUBLE-TIME FOR DEALING WITH THESE FREAKS!

FORGET THE UNION -- AND ALERT THE NATIONAL GUARD!

I PROBABLY COULD HAVE CAPTURED MY LI'L LEATHER-SKINNED BUDDY WHILE HE WAS STUCK IN THIS CONFINED SPACE, BUT THAT WOULD ONLY ADD TO HIS PANIC.

IF I REALLY WANT TO HELP, MY BEST BET IS TO LET HIM GO OFF... AND SULK FOR THE NEXT HOUR OR SO... WHILE HE WAITS FOR MY WEBBING TO DISSOLVE.

IN THE MEAN-TIME, I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH DOC CONNORS AND FIND OUT WHAT WENT WRONG WITH BATWING'S CURE.

A FEW HOURS LATER...

ENJOYING A QUICK ONE BEFORE DINNER, POP?

Huh --?!

Oh!

HI, SON! I DIDN'T SEE YOU STANDING THERE.

POLICE

LET'S JUST KEEP THIS BETWEEN US MEN, Huh?

NO SENSE WORRYING YOUR MOTHER NEEDLESSLY.

COME SIT WITH ME.

I'VE BEEN MEANING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH YOU.

WORD AROUND THE PRECINCT HOUSE IS THAT YOU'RE QUESTIONING EVERYONE WHO'S RECENTLY BEEN VICTIMIZED BY ***SPIDER-MAN***.

I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN POLICE WORK.

YOU PLANNING TO BE A COP LIKE YOUR OLD MAN?

SILENCE BRIEFLY SMOLDERS IN THE AIR.

A SILENCE LACED WITH THE PUNGENT AROMA OF ALCOHOL.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL

WELL...
Uh...
YOU COME TO ME IF YOU NEED ANY ADVICE.
WE'RE MAINLY TALKING MINOR VANDALISM.
I'M GUESSING IT'S THE WORK OF SOME TROUBLED KID.
SOMEBODY WHO NEEDS REAL COUNSELING... INSTEAD OF A RAP IN THE HEAD.
AND YOU'RE SUCH AN *EXPERT* WHEN IT COMES TO RAISING KIDS!
WHAT'S THAT CRACK SUPPOSE TO MEAN?
NOTHING! FORGET IT!
I JUST WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND ONE THING, POP. IT AIN'T *YOU* THAT I'M TRYING TO BE LIKE --
"-- IT'S *SPIDER-MAN!*"
YOU ENJOY YOURSELF OVER AT ANNA WATSON'S HOUSE, AUNT MAY -- BUT KEEP THE *MUSIC* DOWN THIS TIME!
THE NEIGHBORS HAVE THREATENED TO CALL THE COPS IF YOU TWO THROW ANOTHER WILD PARTY!
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO STUDY!
BELIEVE IT, PRETTY LADY! I DREAM OF HAVING A SOCIAL LIFE *HALF* AS EXCITING AS YOURS!
AT LAST! SHE'S GONE.
I HAVE THE HOUSE TO MYSELF.
I CAN FINALLY USE THE TELEPHONE WITHOUT FEARING SHE'LL OVERHEAR ME.

I KNOW I'M ONLY BEING PARANOID, BUT I DON'T WANT ***DOC CONNORS*** HEARING MY REAL VOICE IN CASE HE EVER RUNS INTO ME AS ***PETER PARKER*** --

-- SO I'LL DRAPE MY MASK OVER THE MOUTH-PIECE.

HELLO? CAN I SPEAK TO CURT CONNORS?

SPIDER-MAN! THANK GOD YOU CALLED!

I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH YOU... IF I'D ONLY KNOWN HOW.

BATWING'S ***ESCAPED!***

I KNOW! HE'S RETURNED TO ***NEW YORK.***

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE...

"AS YOU ALREADY KNOW, BATWING IS ACTUALLY ***JIMMY SANTINI*** -- A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD BOY -- WHO WAS ACCIDENTALLY ***TRANSFORMED*** INTO THIS BIZARRE CREATURE AFTER BEING EXPOSED TO CERTAIN UNKNOWN CHEMICALS.

"HIS CONDITION HAS STEADILY ***DETERIORATED*** OVER THE PAST MONTHS AS HE CONTINUED TO ***MUTATE.***

"I RECENTLY MADE A ***BREAK-THROUGH,*** AND INJECTED HIM WITH A SERUM WHICH ***SHOULD*** HAVE RETURNED HIM TO NORMAL, BUT --

DIDN'T WORK... I STILL ***BATWING.*** B-BE BATWING ***FOREVER!***

"WHILE I WAS RECHECKING MY SERUM -- TRYING TO DETERMINE WHY I HAD FAILED -- ***JIMMY*** MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY...

I'M... A ***FREAK!*** A ***MONSTER!*** D-DON'T DESERVE... TO ***LIVE!***

"THE THING IS, MY SERUM CHECKED OUT! IT SHOULD HAVE CURED HIM!

"THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO REASON -- ***PHYSIOLOGICALLY,*** SPEAKING -- THAT JIMMY IS STILL BATWING!

"IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE DIDN'T ***WANT*** TO CHANGE BACK!

"AS IF HE WERE SOMEHOW HOLDING THE SERUM IN ABEYANCE!"

THAT EXPLAINS WHY BAT-*JIMMY* ATTACKED ME EARLIER.

HE WASN'T TRYING TO KILL *ME*. HE WANTED TO EGG ME INTO KILLING *HIM*.

HE'S COMPLETELY *GIVEN UP*, AND NO LONGER BELIEVES A CURE IS POSSIBLE.

BUT I WON'T GIVE UP ON *HIM!*

I'M JUST LUCKY THAT I'VE MANAGED TO KEEP TRACK OF HIS *MOTHER* --

--AND THAT SHE RECENTLY MOVED BACK TO *MANHATTAN* AFTER THE ACCIDENT WHICH KILLED HER HUSBAND AND TRANSFORMED HER SON.

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, SHE LIVES IN AN APARTMENT ON THE NEXT BLOCK!

SCORE ONE FOR THE HOME TEAM!

TAP TAP

W-WHAT ON EARTH --?!

SPIDER-MAN!

SORRY IF I STARTLED YOU, Mrs. SANTINI.

I'M HERE TO HELP *JIMMY*.

HAS YOUR SON TRIED TO CONTACT YOU?

I...I HAVE NO SON.

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, HE DIED WITH HIS FATHER.

T-THAT THING ISN'T MY JIMMY. HE CAN'T BE!

"T-THAT BATWING MONSTER IS A *CREATURE OF SIN!*

"AN *ABERRATION* TO BE SHUNNED BY GOD AND MAN!

HOLY BIBLE

"AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I TOLD HIM WHEN HE *LIED* TO ME, AND SAID HE WAS MY *JIMMY!*"

YOU MUSTN'T BE FOOLED BY APPEARANCES, Mrs. SANTINI. LOOK DEEP INTO YOUR HEART... AND I'M SURE YOU'LL SEE THE TRUTH.

NO! NO! GET OUT OF MY HOUSE... BEFORE I CALL THE *POLICE!*

8

SUIT YOURSELF, LADY! BUT, WHETHER YOU ADMIT IT OR NOT, YOUR SON IS STILL *ALIVE!*

HE'S SCARED AND *ALONE* --

-- AND HE DESPERATELY NEEDS *YOU!*

YOU'RE TRYING TO *TRICK* ME, BUT IT WON'T WORK!

I'VE READ ALL ABOUT YOU IN *THE DAILY BUGLE!* YOU'RE ALSO A *CRIMINAL MENACE!*

"I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST TIME I SAW *SPIDER-MAN* IN PERSON.

"HE WENT ONE-ON-ONE WITH THAT JERK CALLED *SUPERCHARGER* ON THE SET OF THE *IT'S AMAZING* TELEVISION SHOW --

"-- AND HE WAS CRACKING *JOKES* AND THROWING *PUNCHES* ALL THE WAY!"

THAT'S WHAT I *LIKE* ABOUT THE WEB-HEAD!

THINGS ARE *SIMPLE* TO HIM!

HE DOESN'T *HESITATE* OR *SECOND-GUESS* HIMSELF!

HE SPOTS A BAD GUY, AND -- *BAM! BOOM!* -- THE PROBLEM'S SOLVED!

WELL, WELL... *WHAT* HAVE WE HERE?

L-LIZ --?

-- YOU OUGHTA KNOW BETTER'N TO SNEAK UP ON A GUY.

Ohhh! DID I SCARE THE BIG BRAVE DETECTIVE?

'COURSE NOT!

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* HERE, FLASH? DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ON A *STAKEOUT!*

NOT A CHANCE! I AIN'T NO COP!

I'M JUST... Er... LYING IN WAIT... THAT'S ALL!

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SHUSH! SOMEONE'S COMING --!

"IT'S *HIM* -- THE FAKE *SPIDER-MAN!*"

C'MON! WE GOTTA FOLLOW 'IM!

ARE YOU *CRAZY?* WHAT WE SHOULD DO... IS GET A COP!

NO POLICE! I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF... JUST LIKE THE REAL SPIDEY WOULD DO!

THE EAST BAY FISH MARKET IN BROOKLYN...

Oh MAN! THAT FREAK'S MESSING WITH YESTERDAY'S CATCH!

WHERE'RE THE COPS? IF THEY DON'T SHOW SOON, WE'LL LOSE OUR ENTIRE STOCK!

CALL YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY, PAL... 'CAUSE IT'S ALREADY GONE!

THOSE FISH WON'T GO FOR CAT FOOD AFTER GORGEOUS GEORGE IS DONE WITH'EM!

LOOKS LIKE MY HUNCH PAID OFF!

I SAW A DOZEN OR SO POLICE CARS SPEEDING THIS WAY, AND RACED AHEAD!

BATWING! YOU HAVE TO COME WITH ME -- NOW! YOU'RE IN GREAT DANGER!

THE POLICE WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT!

L-LET THEM COME.

I... MONSTER! DESERVE... DIE!

NO! YOU ONLY LOOK LIKE A MONSTER! YOU'RE STILL JIMMY SANTINI IN EVERY WAY THAT COUNTS --

-- AND YOU CAN STILL BE CURED!

J-JIMMY... DEAD!

MOMMA SAY... JIMMY DEAD!

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I'D HOPED TO AVOID! HE'S LASHING OUT IN FEAR AND FRUSTRATION -- AND FORCING ME TO DEFEND MYSELF!

BATWING WANT...

...BE DEAD...

...LIKE JIMMY!

SHRRM

UGN

-- THIS ISN'T WORKING LIKE I PLANNED!

I WOULD HAVE BEEN SLASHED TO RIBBONS IF MY *SPIDER-SENSE* HADN'T WARNED ME TO LEAP BACK!

TIME'S RUNNING *OUT*, JIMMY! YOU GOTTA *LISTEN!*

I NEED YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN *ME* -- AND *YOURSELF!*

IF WE WORK *TOGETHER*, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO CHANGE YOU BACK TO *NORMAL!*

YOU STILL *DON'T* UNDERSTAND!

FOR BATWING... *THIS* NORMAL!

BETTER DIE *NOW*...

...BEFORE I WORSE!

NO! YOU CAN'T GIVE UP HOPE! WE'LL FIND A WAY, JIMMY! I SWEAR WE'LL --

-- AW, NO!

AT LAST! POLICE *COME*...

...AND BATWING DIE!

MEANWHILE...

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS FAKE SPIDEY -- EITHER THE WAY HE WALKS OR HOW HE CARRIES HIMSELF -- WHICH REMINDS ME OF SOMEONE!

THIS OLD WAREHOUSE MUST BE HIS HIDEOUT!

LET'S FIND A COP!

WILL YOU GET OFF THAT KICK? I TOLD YOU, I'M GONNA HANDLE THIS CREEP LIKE THE REAL SPIDEY!

YOU JUST WATCH ME, LIZ! -- *BAM! BOOM!* -- I'LL LAND ON HIM LIKE A REAL HERO!

LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF HE STOLE!

WHO'D EVEN WANT THIS JUNK?

QUIET! HE'S UP AHEAD OF US --!

WE'RE IN LUCK! HE'S TAKING OFF HIS MASK, AND--

-- OhMYGOSH!

JASON?!

WHO'S THERE?!
STAY BACK! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER --!
I'M WARNING YOU --! I CAN DEFEND MYSELF!
FREEZE!
WE GOT YOU SURROUNDED... AND TARGETED!
ONE FALSE MOVE... AND YOU'RE DEAD!
JUST GIMME THE WORD, SIR.
WAIT!
WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE!
WE SURRENDER!
NOOO!
BATWING KILL... OR BE KILLED!
ARE YOU CRAZY, JIMMY?
I--IF BATWING DIE --
-- JIMMY BE AT PEACE!
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO END THIS WAY, JIMMY!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, THERE'S STILL HOPE!
THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!
YOU'RE BLOCKING OUR AIM, SPIDER-MAN!
BACK AWAY FROM THE CREATURE!
WE DON'T WANT YOU CAUGHT IN THE CROSS-FIRE!
GO NOW!
NOW!

POLICE

NO!

JASON IONELLO?! YOU'RE ONE OF OUR CLASSMATES! ONE OF THE GANG!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

SOME HERO I AM! I LET THIS PUNK GET THE DROP ON ME!

I SHOULD HAVE JUST DIVED IN LIKE SPIDEY WOULD HAVE, AND -- *BAM! BOOM!* -- THE PROBLEM WOULD ALREADY BE SOLVED!

I-IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF *SALLY*, LIZ!

SHE'S *DEAD*... AND SOMEONE'S GOT TO *PAY* FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO HER!

SALLY AVRIL --?!

HER DEATH WAS *TRAGIC*, JASON... BUT IT WAS ALSO AN *ACCIDENT!*

THERE'S NO ONE TO BLAME!

Y-YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, LIZ.

NO ONE DOES!

SALLY DIED WHILE IN A CAR I WAS DRIVING!

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

SHE'S GONE BECAUSE OF ME!

JASON! *Oh, JASON!* THAT MAY BE THE WAY IT APPEARS TO YOU, BUT NO ONE ELSE BLAMES YOU!

SPIDEY WOULDN'T WASTE HIS TIME, LISTENING TO THIS DOPEY SOAP OPERA!

HE'D BE CRACKING WISE AND TOSSING FISTS!

I CAN'T FORGIVE MYSELF, LIZ! ***I JUST CAN'T!***

IT'S ALL I THINK ABOUT, AND IT TEARS ME UP INSIDE!

I GUESS THAT'S WHY I STOLE THIS COSTUME.

AT FIRST, THE MASQUERADE WAS JUST SOMETHING TO DO... A WAY TO GET MY MIND OFF SALLY!

THEN I REALIZED I COULD MAKE PEOPLE THINK THE REAL ***SPIDER-MAN*** HAD TURNED BAD!

I FIGURED I COULD EVENTUALLY FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE EVERYONE THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT HE HAD SOMEHOW LURED SALLY TO HER DEATH!

BUT IT DIDN'T WORK 'CAUSE ***I KNOW THE TRUTH!***

HERE'S MY CHANCE TO BE LIKE SPIDEY! I KNOW I CAN DECK JASON WITH ONE SHOT!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LEAP FORWARD, AND -- ***BAM! BOOM!*** -- PROBLEM SOLVED!

YEAH, THAT'S ALL...

AS MUCH AS I WANT TO BLAME SPIDEY...

...I CAN'T.

I CAN'T.

AAAAH...

...WHO AM I KIDDING?

I CAN'T LAND ON JASON.

NOT IN HIS CONDITION!

GIMME THE GUN, PAL. EVERYTHING'LL BE OKAY.

NO, IT WON'T! IT CAN'T BE!

SURE... IT *CAN!*

WE'LL GET YOU THE HELP YOU NEED!

THIS AIN'T HOW THINGS WERE SUPPOSED TO GO!

I JUST WANTED A SIMPLE CASE --

"-- SO THAT I COULD BE A HERO LIKE SPIDEY!"

SHRRIII!

SHOOT!

KILL BATWING --

-- OR *BATWING* KILL!

NOOO!

HE'S ONLY *BLUFFING!*

DON'T LET HIS APPEARANCE *FOOL* YOU! HE'S NO MONSTER!

HE'S ONLY A CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED *TWELVE-YEAR-OLD KID!*

WHAT'S THE *WORD*, SIR?

GOD HELP ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT I *CAN'T* TRUST SOME COSTUMED VIGILANTE!

THE WORD IS --

WAIT! YOU MUSTN'T KILL MY SON!

POLICE

WHAT'S THAT *WOMAN* DOING HERE?

WHO LET HER CROSS OUR BARRICADE?

COME BACK HERE, LADY!

NO! I HAVE TO GO TO MY SON! MY JIMMY NEEDS ME!

Mrs. SANTINI --!

I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD ABOUT ***THIS*** ON THE RADIO!

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME, JIMMY?

I'M SO SORRY I TURNED YOU AWAY!

I WAS SCARED... ***TERRIFIED...*** OF WHAT YOU HAD BECOME!

AND I GUESS -- IN SOME SMALL WAY -- I ALSO BLAMED YOU FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH!

I WAS ***WRONG,*** JIMMY!

YOU'RE MY SON, AND I LOVE YOU NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE!

WITH GOD'S HELP, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO BE A FAMILY, AGAIN!

M-MOMMA --!

OH, MOMMA --

-- I KNOW WE WILL!

LOOKS LIKE THE WEB-SWINGER WASN'T ***LYING,*** SIR!

I DON'T GET IT! IF SPIDER-MAN REALLY IS ON THE UP-AND-UP -- ***WHY DOES HE WEAR A MASK?***

I CAN'T ANSWER THAT, SIR... BUT I'M REAL GLAD HE WAS HERE ***TODAY!***

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOO

I'M SO *PROUD* OF YOU, FLASH!

THE WAY YOU HANDLED *JASON* SHOWED REAL SENSITIVITY AND MATURITY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT, LIZ.

NOTHING ENDED UP LIKE I PLANNED.

IT WAS A LOT MORE COMPLICATED THAN I'D THOUGHT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

YOU'RE A *HERO!*

MAYBE...

BUT I STARTED OUT TRYING TO BE LIKE SPIDEY --

-- AND ENDED UP FOLLOWING MY OLD MAN'S ADVICE!

I WAS HOPING TO CALL *CURT CONNORS* -- AND TELL HIM THAT HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIS CURE ALL ALONG -- BUT I'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL MY SPIDER-SENSE GIVES ME THE *ALL-CLEAR!*

OUT OF MY WAY, PARKER!

WHAT'S YOUR HURRY, THOMPSON?

YOU USUALLY HAVE TIME TO TRADE A FEW QUICK INSULTS.

IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, FLASH?

IT'S NOTHING A PUNY BOOKWORM LIKE YOU WOULD EVER UNDERSTAND, PARKER.

NEXT

AT LONG LAST!

THE GREEN GOBLIN!

'NUFF SAID!

GOODBYES

We won't be having a letters page next issue (since we'll be running a special feature), so we decided to use this month's page to say our farewells. Yes, as many of you have heard by now, next month will mark the last issue of UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN. Needless to say, we're pretty bummed out by this, but there were several factors involved in the decision to cease publication. First and foremost, despite the fact that we've received critical acclaim and very vocal fan support, sales figures just didn't warrant the continuation of this series, especially when you take into account our 99 cent cover price. Also, our regular writer, Kurt Busiek, had already decided to leave the series to concentrate on his other titles, such as THUNDERBOLTS and the new incarnations of both IRON MAN and THE AVENGERS, so it seemed that if we were soon going to end the series anyway, the best place to do it would be with Kurt's last issue. We did discuss several options on how we might continue UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, but ultimately, we decided that the best thing would be to end the series with #25, the big Green Goblin story, and let these twenty-five issues stand as a finite, once-in-a-lifetime body of work, much like the Lee/Ditko issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN that we used as our guidelines and inspiration. When you think about it, we'll really be bringing the series full circle with the last issue: back in issue #1, we showed a pre-Green Goblin Norman Osborn taking his first steps toward adopting his super-villain identity, and next ish, we'll finally show the Goblin taking on Spider-Man, in the one battle between them that had never before been chronicled – an event we've slowly been building up to since the very beginning! We were hoping to go out in style, and we think this'll fit the bill. So, in closing, I'd personally like to acknowledge the contributions of everyone who's worked on this series, and thank them for their incredible efforts. It was really a blast working with each and every one of them! So, thanks to: Kurt Busiek, Pat Olliffe, Al Vey, Pam Eklund, Al Williamson, Al Milgrom, Ron Frenz, John Romita, Sr., Roger Stern, Tom DeFalco, Steve Mattsson, Richard Starkings & Comicraft, Mike Allred, Tom Lyle, Bob Harras, Bob Budiansky, and Tom Brevoort, all of whom made this title a pleasure to work on – and to read!

– Glenn Greenberg
Assistant Editor

Now, some final words from other members of our regular crew:

And so we take our leave of you, not in anger or bitterness about our premature termination, but with pride in what we accomplished, and with thanks to those who helped along the way – particularly Mike Allred, Roger Stern, John Romita, Sr., Fred Hembeck, Joe Sinnott, Ron Frenz, Dan DeCarlo, Don Rosa, and the ubiquitous Kurt Busiek, Pat Olliffe, Al Williamson and Al Vey. We hope you'll accompany us to our new assignments – Kurt on THE AVENGERS and IRON MAN, and Pat to MARVEL TEAM-UP and UNLIMITED ACCESS. As a final bonus for faithful UNTOLD TALES readers, we'll be running our second Spidey continuity chart in next month's final issue.

Be well.

– Tom Brevoort
Editor

Twenty-five issues. And two annuals.

Not the longest run any creator ever had on a series, though it's the longest run I've managed so far in my fifteen years writing comics. And it's been an absolute blast, too. Working with collaborators as friendly and inventive as Pat Olliffe, Tom Brevoort, Glenn Greenberg, Ron Frenz, Mike Allred, Bob McLeod, Tom DeFalco, Tom Lyle and all the others who've helped put together this series has been a rare treat, and the reader support we've gotten has been incredible! The letters, the reviews, the compliments at conventions and online – believe me, it's much appreciated. And I'm delighted that as of this writing, UNTOLD TALES has received a batch of nominations in the prestigious Eisner Awards – including nominations for Tom Brevoort, Joe Sinnott, Al Williamson, the book itself, and some bozo who writes it...

But for all that, for all that I've been able to work with terrific collaborators, and that we've gotten great response and support, I've got to say that the best thing about working on this book boils down to one name: Spider-Man. It has been a rare and unexpected thrill to be able to travel back in Marvel-time, and get to add to the adventures of the definitive teen hero during my absolute favorite run of his adventures. Spidey in high school. Peter and Betty. Peter and Flash. Spidey and Jonah. All the classic villains, as they first appeared – I would never have expected to get the chance to do a series like this, and getting it, I never expected that it would last as long as it has.

So I've got to thank everybody who worked on the book for the wonderful ride, I've got to thank everybody who supported the book for making us feel like we were doing something right, and I've got to thank Stan Lee and Steve Ditko for creating a character so rich, involving and interesting that we could go back to the beginning, thirty-five years later, and have so much fun telling the "in-between" stories.

It's been a privilege, and it's been an honor. Thanks. (And hey, I hope you'll follow me over to another couple of Stan Lee co-creations, IRON MAN and THE AVENGERS, when I start writing them this December!)

– Kurt Busiek

Wow! That was fast! In what seems like the blink of an eye, my time on what has been an absolutely fantastic project comes to a close. I have enjoyed working on this book like no other.

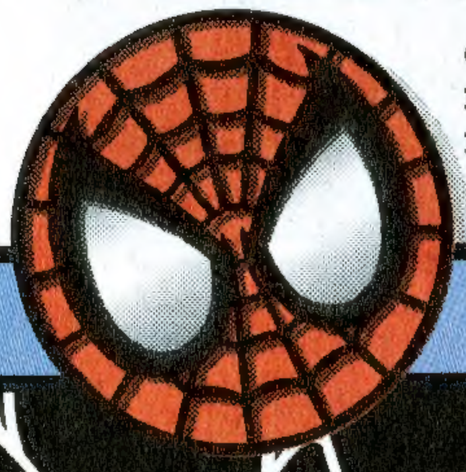
My thanks to Tom and Glenn, who took a chance on a guy with no previous Spidey experience (that would be me), and to Kurt Busiek, who deserves a great deal of the credit for whatever success we achieved in our all-too-short time on UNTOLD TALES, and whose stories kept me a fan of the book even as I sweated out the deadlines. Thanks as well to Al Vey, Pam Eklund, Al Milgrom, and Al Williamson for making me look good, to Steve Mattsson for bringing all our work to colorful life, and to Ron, Bob and Scott for coming in, in the late innings, to save the game. My special thanks, of course, to Spidey – you're the best, big guy!

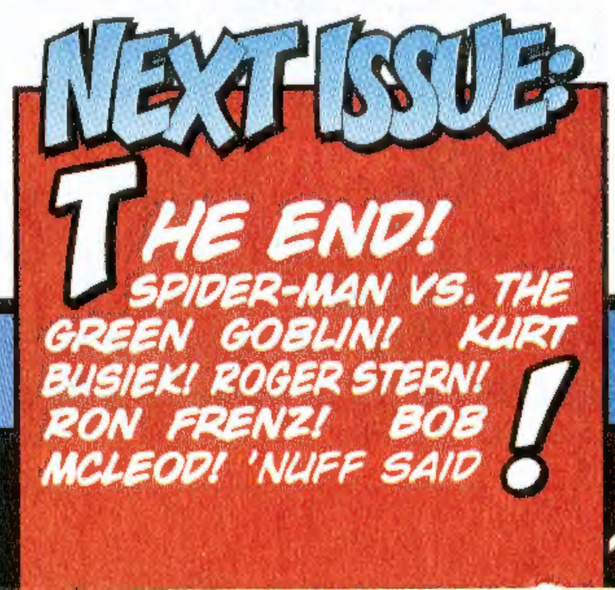
To the fans of UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN, you folks are the greatest! Maybe our sales weren't the best, but to me, you more than made up for it with your love and loyalty to this book. I felt like part of something pretty special by your kind words each month and our conversations at the occasional convention. You are the reason we try to make these things the best we know how.

Now, it's on to other projects and other adventures, but rest assured, in the years to come, I'll be flipping through my copies of UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN to visit with old friends.

– Pat Olliffe

SPECIAL NOTE: *UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN the comic book may be going away, but in September, be sure to check out your local bookstores for the Untold Tales of Spider-Man anthology collection, produced by Byron Preiss Multimedia and Boulevard Books, edited by the legendary Stan (The Man) Lee and the lovable Kurt Busiek, and featuring short stories spanning Spidey's entire career, including a little gem by our very own Glenn Greenberg!*





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